

Message Text

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13
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 OMB-01 DLOS-06 EB-07 SAL-01 IO-13 EUR-12 /104 W
----- 031046

R 180650Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2395
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USINT BAGHADAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1014

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF
SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE

REF (A) KUWAIT 3898; (B) DOHA 851; (C) MUSCAT 0977

1. OMAN RADIO AUG 17 ANNOUNCED POSTPONEMENT OF CONFERENCE
UNTIL NOVEMBER.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI, SPEAKING TO AMBASSADOR SAME DAY,
ASCRIBED DELAY TO IRAQI DECISION AGAINST TAKING PART AND TO
INABILITY OF SAG FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD TO ATTEND.
SAID SAUD HAD WRITTEN HIM IN EARLY AUGUST SAYING OTHER
COMMITMENTS WOULD PREVENT HIS ATTENDANCE UNTIL SEPTEMBER
AT LEAST. ZAWAWI HAD ASKED HIM TO RECONSIDER, BUT NO REPLY
HAD COME BY START OF THIS WEEK SO OMAN DECIDED IT HAD NO
SENSIBLE CHOICE BUT TO PUT OFF THE GATHERING. AFTER
STEPS TO POSTPONE CONFERENCE WERE TAKEN, PRINCE SAUD'S
REPLY ARRIVED RESTATING HIS INABILITY TO COME THIS MONTH.
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3. SCENARIO NOW CALLS FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO CONVENE INFORMALLY WHILE TOGETHER AT UNGA IN EARLY OCTOBER, WITH VIEW TO PREPARING FOR DESCENT ON MUSCAT IN FOLLOWING MONTH.

3. JUST AS KUWAIT EMOFFS WERE TOLD BY KUWAIT FONMIN LEGAL DIRECTOR RUZOUQI, I WAS TOLD BY ZAWAWI THAT IRAQ'S PRESENT ATTITUDE IS THAT NEXT GULF CONFERENCE SHOULD BE LIMITED TO WORKING TOWARD FREE NAVIGATION IN THE GULF, NOTHING MORE.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR ZAWAWI IS DISENCHANTED BY THIS WHOLE BUSINESS AND EXPECTS LITTLE TO COME FROM THESE GATHERINGS IN NEAR FUTURE. LATEST EPISODE PROBABLY HAS FURTHER SOURCED OMANGOV ON PROSPECTS OF INSTILLING MORE WARMTH AND UNDERSTANDING INTO THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA. AS OMAN SEES IT, SAUDIS ALL YEAR HAVE HAD THEIR BACKS TURNED, AS EVIDENCED BY LACK OF FOLLOW-THROUGH ON QUESTION OF DEVELOPMENT AID FOR DHOFAR, FAILURE TO KEEP MUSCAT PROPERLY INFORMED OF STATE OF SAUDI MANUVERINGS WITH PDRY, AND NOW THIS.
WOLLE

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